

# **Socio-Economic Study of a Village in Kamrup Metropolitan District, Assam**

**Barasha Rani Das**

M.Phil Research Scholar, Department of Geography, Gauhati University, Assam, India.

## **Abstract**

A survey on the socio-economic condition of the rural dwellers in Bagibari village of Kamrup Metropolitan district, Assam was conducted during 2016-17. The present status of socio-economic conditions of its local people and their impacts on other aspects of livelihood have been analysed in the present study.

**Key Words:** *Socio-Economic Condition, Livelihood, Kamrup(M), Assam.*

## **Introduction**

The socio-economic status of a region provides an overview of its population characteristics, occupational arrangements, educational attainments, level of urbanization, state of economy as well as other basic amenities essential for one's living. The study of socio-economic status of a region is helpful for the analysis of its socio-economic background and its role towards a better economic as well as social condition. Therefore, a systematic analysis of socio-economic conditions of an area acts as the guiding pillar to improve its backwardness through various suitable planning models or procedures.

## **Materials and Methods**

The study area of Bagibari village is located about 45 kilometre away from the district headquarter of Dispur, Guwahati. The village is mainly a plain area situated on the bank of Kolong river which has been providing a stable source of irrigation, fishing ground and water for other necessary purposes to its local people. The physiography of the village is mainly characterized by plains and a smaller part by hills. Being blessed with plain topography, the area provides favourable condition for agricultural activities like rice cultivation; pisciculture or fish farming etc. The village enjoys a heavy summer rainfall and relatively low temperature during winter. It receives an average annual rainfall of 180-200 cm and temperature exceeds 33°C in the months of July and August. The village is mainly dominated by the people belonging to Hindu religion comprising different castes such as O.B.C, General, S.C, and a few S.T community people.

## **Methods**

The present study has been carried out with the help of both primary and secondary sources. The household surveys have been conducted through well-structured questionnaire cum survey schedule. Besides, data and information related to various aspects of socio-economic life of the village have been gathered through focused group discussion, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) etc. Other necessary information has been collected from the secondary sources like books, journals and magazines published by the government or other institutions.

## **Results and Discussion**

The concerned village which is a part of Dimoria Developmental Block, has recorded a total population of 1562 persons as per 2011 census. Out of the total population, numbers of male population in the village are 814 (52.11%), while its female inhabitants are 751 (48.07%) persons. The sex ratio of the village has been recorded to be 922 females per thousand males. Percentage of married people accounting for 66.43% exceeds the share of unmarried people which is about 33.56%.

The village is comprised of a total 339 households being located along the roads and river, thus develops a linear type of settlement within the concerned locality. Like any other area, the age-sex structure of the study area which is the composition of population with respect to age and sex also helps to understand the trends in fertility, mortality and migration in the past years.

As per the 2016 field survey, numbers of people below the age group of 0-6 years is 5.84% to the total population whereas 9.39% of its population fall under the age group of 06-15 years. Highest share of population was found in the age group of 15-35 years constituting about 38.46% to the total population. Besides, percentages of people under the age group of 35-60 years and more than 60 years are 34.31% and 12% respectively.

Here, the share of dependent population (people under the age of 15 years and above 60 years) is estimated to be 27.23% and people under independent age group is found to be 72.77% which is higher than that of the dependent population that reflects a positive sign towards a better economic condition in the village.

Besides, the educational attainment which is an important aspect for the analysis of socio-economic status of an area plays a significant role in any society as it makes its people eligible to partake various types of jobs and skills that become helpful for economic development of that society and for its contribution towards the nation as well. In the study area of Bagibari village, the number of literate people comprises 93% out of which 40.60% are female and 59.02% are male population. The share of total illiterate people is only 6.99% which is indeed in a good state of educational condition. Among the total literates, about 53% of its population are under 10<sup>th</sup> standard, 30.82% are between 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> standard, while 12.03% and 4.13% people are within undergraduate level and postgraduate level respectively. The educational qualification of most of the adults and old aged people are under 10<sup>th</sup> standard. However, enrolments of the youths in higher educational studies have been rising in the village from the last few years.

Apart from the educational attainment, the occupational structure of the study area also plays an important role in its socio-economic condition. Occupation is the main source of earning through which one can sustain their livelihood. Out of the total population, share of working population was estimated to be 39%. Most of the local people in the village accounting for 39.09% are engaged in primary activities like cultivation of crops, pisciculture, livestock rearing etc. Besides, 23.63% of the total population are dependent on secondary activities, while 37.27% people are engaged in tertiary activities like trade; services related to education, transport etc. Therefore, the economy of the concerned village is mainly dominated by primary or agricultural activities. The earnings of the villagers range from 10,000 rupees to more than 60,000 rupees per month. The share of people having a monthly income of 10,000 rupees is 27.27% and people earning a monthly income between 10,000-20,000 rupees are also 27.27%. Besides, 34.54% people of the village have been earning 20,000-60,000 rupees per month while the highest income level of more than 60,000 rupees is being earned by 10.90% of the total population per month.

Besides, the village is being inhabited by different communities like Assamese, Nepali, Karbi etc. that represent a colourful mixture of varied culture of different norms, costumes, food habits, customs, traditional knowledge and beliefs systems etc. which ultimately have developed a strong bond of unification among those communities in spite of all the diversities. However, most of the people in the village belong to Assamese community.

Moreover, despite of its location within the jurisdiction of Kamrup Metropolitan district, the village is not yet much developed in terms of transport and communication facilities.

### **Conclusion**

Therefore, it can be concluded that though the village has been still experiencing underdevelopment in many aspects yet, there are many potentialities within it to become a socio-economically developed region if the natural and human resources of the village are utilised and supervised in a proper way.

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